

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03305 041047Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7432

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3305

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: THE LOCKHEED AFFAIR

1. WITH VARIOUS REPRESENTATIVES OF GOJ INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES NOW IN WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH LOCKHEED AFFAIR, SPECULATION HAS MOUNTED IN JAPANESE PRESS THAT THESE REPRESENTATIVES ARE ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF USG AGENCIES CONCERNED ON PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF ADDITIONAL LOCKHEED MATERIAL. ASAHI MARCH 4, REPORTING DESPATCH OF MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIAL HOTTA, SPECULATED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH ALONG THESE LINES AS DID YOMIURI IN EVENING EDITION SAME DAY.

2. DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS YAMAZAKI CALLED DCM MARCH 4 TO EXPRESS CONCERN FOR SUCH SPECULATION. YAMAZAKI SAID THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAS DENIED THAT ANY SUCH CONSULTATION ON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FURTHER MATERIAL WILL BE RELEASED ARE TAKING PLACE. COMMENT: FOREIGN OFFICE OBVIOUSLY APPREHENSIVE THAT SUCH SPECULATION WILL PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR OPPOSITION TO CHARGE THAT ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED BY USG ON USE OR RELEASE OF MATERIAL PROVIDED WERE AT LEAST IN PART INFLUENCED BY EFFORT OF GOJ OFFICIALS TO PREVENT EMBARRASSING OR DAMAGING DISCLOSURES. YAMAZAKI BELIEVES THAT PROMPT RELEASE OF PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO PRIME MINISTER MIKI IS BEST ANTIDOTE TO SUCH SPECULATION, AND HE EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT PRESIDENT'S REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN THIS WEEK.

SHOESMITH

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